

A NEW NAME FOR *BLECHNUM CAPENSE* (L.) SCHLECHTEND.

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ABSTRACT

Blechnum capense (L.) Schlechtend. (1825) is antedated by *Blechnum capense* Burm.f. (1768). *Blechnum sylvaticum* Schelpe is proposed as a new name for the former.

UITTREKSEL

'N NUWE NAAM VIR *BLECHNUM CAPENSE* (L.) SCHLECHTEND.

Blechnum capense Burm.f. (1768) is ouer as *Blechnum capense* (L.) Schlechtend. (1825). *Blechnum sylvaticum* Schelpe word voorgestel as 'n nuwe naam vir laasgenoemde.

In the *Index Filicum*, Christensen (1906) accepted the name *Blechnum capense* (L.) Schlechtend. based on *Osmunda capensis* L., which is typified by a Koenig collection from between Table Mountain and Devils Peak on the Cape Peninsula (LINN 1244/11). This view has remained unquestioned. However the use of the name was antedated by *Blechnum capense* Burm.f. (in the *Florae Capensis Prodrum* [1768]) despite Christensen's dismissal of it as a "nomen". The younger Burman's description of it is as follows:

BLECHNUM (capense) frondibus pinnatis, pinnis sessilibus cordato-lanceolatis integerrimis.

Although this description is meagre, the younger Burman's *B. capense* is validly published. On a short visit to Geneva some years ago I was unable to locate a holotype, but Mr H. P. Linder has recently returned from Geneva with photographs of a specimen annotated by Houttyn:

"*Blechnum capense* appellavit N. L. Burmannus . . ." which could be used as evidence of the younger Burman's concept of his species. The sheet is a mixture of two species currently known as *Blechnum australe* L. and *B. punctulatum* Sw. The younger Burman's description applies equally well to both elements. It therefore appears that the name *Blechnum capense* Burm.f. is based on two discordant elements and should be rejected. The prior use of the name *Blechnum capense* by the younger Burman precludes its use as *Blechnum capense* (L.) Schlechtend.

Consequently, I propose *Blechnum sylvaticum* Schelpe as a nomen novum for *Blechnum capense* (L.) Schlechtend. (1825) non *Blechnum capense* Burm.f. (1768).